

community by tying our payment of dues to the United Nations and other international organizations to these unrelated family planning issues.

Current law, with which Administration policy is fully consistent, already prohibits the use of Federal funds to pay for abortion abroad and for lobbying on abortion issues. This bill would go beyond those limits. One provision would deny U.S. Government funding for family planning programs carried out by foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that use their own funds to perform abortions even though the overall result of these NGO family planning programs is to reduce the incidence of abortion. Although the bill allows the President to waive this restriction, use of the waiver would also cripple many programs by limiting annual spending for international family planning to \$356 million, \$44 million below the amount available for Fiscal Year 1998.

A second provision would attempt to restrict the free speech of foreign NGOs by prohibiting funding for those that use their own funds to engage in any activity intended to alter the laws of a foreign country either to promote or to deter abortion. The bill would even ban drafting and distributing material or public statements on abortion. The bill does not contain a waiver for this restriction.

These restrictions and the funding limit would severely jeopardize the ability of the United States to meet the growing demand for family planning and other critical health services in developing countries. By denying funding to organizations that offer a wide range of safe and effective family planning services, the bill would increase unwanted pregnancies and lead to more abortions than would otherwise be the case.

I am also deeply concerned that the Congress has effectively tied these unacceptable restrictions on international family planning to payment of legitimate U.S. arrears to the United Nations and other international organizations. A strong United Nations, with the United States playing a leadership role, is in our national interest. Payment of our dues to the United Nations is essential to our ability to lead. There are strongly held beliefs on both sides of the debate over international population policy. These issues ought to be considered separately on their own merits; they should not be permitted to hinder U.S. obligations to the world community.

The package authorizing arrears payments linked to UN reforms was the result of good-faith negotiations between my Administration and the Congress more than a year and a half ago. Unfortunately, due to the passage of time, some of these conditions are now outdated and are no longer achievable. In particular, the fact that the UN has concluded negotiations on assessment rates for the next 3 years has significantly decreased our ability to nego-

tiate a limitation on the U.S. assessed share of the UN regular budget below 22 percent. Furthermore, the increase in contested arrears during this period requires that the United States have additional flexibility in obtaining a contested arrears account. While many of the UN reform benchmarks in the package remain acceptable, significant revisions are required, and I look forward to working with the Congress next year to secure the payment of our arrears and an achievable package of UN reforms.

The Bill contains important and carefully negotiated authority to reorganize the foreign affairs agencies and other basic authorities for these agencies. Many of these provisions were supported by my Administration, and I am pleased that they have been included in the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for FY 1999.

For the foregoing reasons, I am compelled to return H.R. 1757 without my approval.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 21, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal and, without objection, the veto message and bill will be printed as a House document.

There was no objection.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message and the accompanying bill be referred to the Committee on International Relations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

PRESIDENT'S VETO OF H.R. 1757

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member deeply regrets that the President of the United States has jeopardized America's foreign policy leadership by vetoing this legislation, H.R. 1757.

The President has vetoed this legislation which would permit the United States to pay \$926 million overall and \$475 million this year in arrearages to the United Nations, simply because he apparently believes that U.S. tax dollars should be used by foreign nongovernmental organizations to lobby for abortion.

On the basis of past experience, one could conclude that the compromised Mexico City policy in this legislation would likely affect only one foreign, nongovernmental organization, the International Planned Parenthood Federation in London. According to the Congressional Research Service, that organization spends only \$400,000, or less than 1 percent of its own budget, on abortion-related services.

Mr. Speaker, the President, uncompromisingly, is willing to put this ex-

treme position, defending a tiny expenditure by a foreign nongovernmental organization, ahead of America's long-term interest in paying down our country's United Nations arrearages through the authorization bill he just vetoed.

FEDERAL REPORTS ELIMINATION ACT OF 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1364) to eliminate unnecessary and wasteful Federal reports, with a Senate amendment to the House amendment thereto and concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment to the House amendment as follows:

Senate amendment to House amendment: Page 37 of the House engrossed amendment, strike out all after line 2 down to and including line 10.

Mr. SOLOMON (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION ORDERS

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4164) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the enforcement of child custody and visitation orders, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. CHILD CUSTODY.

(a) SECTION 1738A(a).—Section 1738A(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "subsection (f) of this section, any child custody determination" and inserting "subsections (f), (g), and (h) of this section, any custody determination or visitation determination".

(b) SECTION 1738A(b)(2).—Section 1738A(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting "or grandparent" after "parent".

(c) SECTION 1738A(b)(3).—Section 1738A(b)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "or visitation" after "for the custody".

(d) SECTION 1738A(b)(5).—Section 1738A(b)(5) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "custody determination" each place it occurs and inserting "custody or visitation determination".

(e) SECTION 1738A(b)(9).—Section 1738A(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (8) and